



Children & Families Commission

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MEMBERS:

Beatrice Acosta
Representative
District 4

Rebecca Barton-Nicholes
Representative
District 5

Pat Paul
Supervisor
District 1

Sallie Perez
Representative
District 2

Martin G. Petersen
Stanislaus County
Superintendent

George Skol
Vice Chair
Representative
District 3

Dan Souza, LCSW
Behavioral Health &
Recovery Services

Margaret Szczepaniak
Health Services Agency

John Walker, MD
Chair
Public Health Officer

Robert H. Allaire
Interim Executive Director

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2003

West Modesto Community Center
401-E Paradise Road
Modesto, CA 95351

Members Present: John Walker, MD (Chair), George Skol (Vice Chair), Bea Acosta, Rebecca Barton-Nicholes, Supervisor Pat Paul, Sallie Perez, Superintendent Martin Petersen, Dan Souza, LCSW, and Margaret Szczepaniak.

Staff Present: Robert H. Allaire, Interim Executive Director; Mick Krausnick, County Counsel; Dan Rosas, Staff Services Coordinator; Brenda Priest-O'Brien, Accountant; and Erica Inacio, Confidential Assistant.

I. Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Walker. Commissioners and staff were introduced. The newest Commissioner, Rebecca Barton-Nicholes, was introduced and welcomed.

II. Presentations

A. A video of the Central Valley Report on McGruff the Robot, was presented.

III. Consent Calendar

Moved Paul, Seconded Acosta. The consent calendar was unanimously approved.

IV. Agenda Items

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2003.

Moved on Consent

B. Executive Director's Report

1. The Commission authorized the Interim Executive Director, upon approval of the California Children & Families Commission, to negotiate and sign a School Readiness Initiative Agreement with the Riverbank Unified School District for California Avenue School. The District was given an Application Review Decision Point 2 and was asked to submit additional information, prior to April 1, 2003, to the California Children & Families Commission. The funds will be disbursed upon the review and approval of this additional information.

Moved on Consent.

2. The Commission accepted the first Program Review under the Master Contract with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and the Modesto City Schools for the Healthy Start Support Project, Early Childcare and Development Grants, Childcare Voucher-Alternative Payment Program and the Child Care Development Grant for Children At-Risk of Neglect, Abuse and/or exploitation. The Commission acknowledged the participation of the Program Review Committee Members and accepted the update from SCOE and the Modesto City Schools. The Commission instructed the staff to work with SCOE and Modesto City Schools to develop a Scope of Work and Budget for FY 2003/04 to be included in the Master Contract and FY 2003/04 Budget and,

working through the Administrative Committee, to develop a program and budget projection for FY 2004/05 and 2005/06.

The Commission further instructed the Interim Executive Director, and the ad hoc committee on Evaluation & Planning, to consider and include the Healthy Start Support Project, Early Childcare and Development Grants, Childcare Voucher-Alternative Payment Program and the Childcare Development Grant for Children At-Risk of Neglect, Abuse and/or Exploitation, as it considers its recommendations.

Moved Skol, Seconded Souza. Unanimously Approved.

3. The Commission was provided with a draft of two Policies & Procedures specific to the use of Local Proposition 10 Funds that were reviewed by the Administrative Committee upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

- a. Policy & Procedures – Intended Use of Funds

The Commission reviewed the draft policy and procedure on Intended Use of Funds and recommended some changes. The Commission asked that the policy and procedure be resubmitted to the Administrative Committee for further discussion and have it returned to the Commission for final approval.

- b. Policy & Procedures – Childcare Funds

The Commission reviewed the draft policy and procedure on Childcare Funds and recommended changes to the wording. The Commission requested for the policy and procedure to be resubmitted to the Administrative Committee for further discussion and have it returned to the Commission for final approval.

Moved Szczepaniak, Seconded Acosta. Unanimously Approved.

Pam Reeder, President of Stanislaus Family Child Care Association, expressed her concern in regards to the policies and procedures and also submitted letters to the Commission of concerned parents. The Commission acknowledged their concern and also informed them that they were not going to stop funding childcare providers, however there is a priority in the funding from not-for-profit vs. for-profit organizations.

Several representatives from locally funded programs indicated that the Commission funds programs that assist unlicensed providers in becoming licensed with the specific purpose to expand childcare and increase the quality of childcare.

4. The Commission appointed an ad hoc committee for Evaluation & Planning (Skol and Walker) to convene as soon as possible to address a draft proposal for program and systems change evaluation submitted by Steve Hughes, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Public Policy Studies at CSU-Stanislaus. The proposal addresses the need to assess and evaluate the pilot programs, the master contract, the desired outcome of funded programs and any change(s) to the systems addressing the needs of children 0-5 and their parents. The ad hoc committee for Evaluation and Planning, working with the Interim Executive Director and the Center for Public Policy Studies at CSU-Stanislaus, will return to the Commission no later than April 2003, with specific recommendations.

Moved Paul, Seconded Acosta. Unanimously Approved.

5. The Commission was presented with a draft of an agreement with the Stanislaus County Children's Council. The Council investigates and reports on the delivery and availability of services to children and families in Stanislaus County and serves as an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors for local policy issues that impact the well being of children and families. Based on the breadth of experienced expertise of its membership and standing committees will bring depth to the Commission. The Chair was authorized to sign the agreement between the Commission and the Stanislaus Children's Council and the Interim Executive Director will work with the Executive Director of the Children's Council in implementing this agreement. When the agreement is completed it will be returned to the Commission.

Moved Skol, Seconded Souza. Unanimously Approved.

6. The Commission authorized the Chair to sign an agreement between the Commission and the Chief Executive Office reflecting the original proposal of June 2002, which outlined the scope and authority of the Executive Director, the assignment of Commission staff with the Chief Executive Office and the support services available through the Chief Executive Office to the Commission and the Commission staff. The Commission directed the Interim Executive Director, working with the Executive Committee, to fully implement this agreement.

Moved Petersen, Seconded Skol. Unanimously Approved.

7. The Commission was provided with an update on the recruitment for the Executive Director position. There has been a total of 27 applications of which 21 of them meet the minimum qualifications. The top 15 or 16 who have the experience that most closely relate to the Commission's requirements are scheduled for an interview on March 6, 2003. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Interim Executive Director will interview the finalists. The final candidates will be presented to the Commission, in Executive Session, on March 25, 2003.
8. The Commission approved Saturday, March 22, 2003 for the Commission Planning Day. The Executive Committee and Commission staff will meet to prepare the Agenda.

C. Committee Reports

1. The Commission accepted the Minutes for the Administrative Committee of February 18, 2003.

Moved on Consent.

D. Program Reports

1. The Commission accepted a monthly report from the CARES Project

Moved on Consent.

2. The Commission accepted a monthly report from Stanislaus County Office of Education.

Moved on Consent.

3. United Way of Stanislaus County

- a. The Commission reviewed the recommendations for funding by the United Way of Stanislaus County for Health & Safety Program Grants, which the Commission authorized to solicit proposal for with no set limit on grant amounts, but with the condition that the money be spent by June 30, 2003. There were a total of 12 applications, with requests of \$168,902.76 but only 6 were recommended for funding and totaled \$74,478.

The Commission accepted the funding recommendations for 4 of the proposals and instructed the United Way of Stanislaus to immediately execute agreements for: \$1,818 for Water Safety Awareness (Turlock Irrigation District); \$10,585 for Turlock Safe Swimmers Program (City of Turlock Community Services); \$5,000 for Parent Classes, Training and Lending Library (Denair Elementary State Preschool); and \$10,000 for Patterson Health & Safety Project (Westside Community Alliance Resource Center).

The Commission asked United Way to further review the proposal submitted by Doctors Medical Center Foundation for Birth, Babies and Beyond Health Safety Education Program (\$35,075), and the proposal submitted by Burbank-Paradise Fire Protection District for Community Health & Safety Program (\$12,000) and return on March 25, 2003 with recommendations.

Moved Skol, Seconded Acosta. Unanimously Approved.

- b. The Commission accepted the initial reviews of the following Pilot Programs by the Pilot Review Teams and recommended the following:

- i. Stanislaus County Library – Traveling Tales Project

The Commission approved for this pilot to be funded (\$53,500) through June 30, 2004. The Commission further recommended for the program to explore all possibilities to leverage State, Federal, and/or Foundation funds to expand the program. The Interim Executive Director is to provide an evaluation plan for this program. The United Way of Stanislaus County is to convene the Pilot Program Review Team to review this program at

least every six months and file a report with the Commission. The Commission directed Traveling Tales to become more familiar with the School Readiness Initiative sites, the other pilot projects and the programs funded through the Master Contracts.

Moved Souza, Seconded Petersen. Ayes: Acosta, Barton-Nicholes, Paul, Perez, Petersen, Souza, Szczepaniak, Walker. Noes: Skol.

- ii. Modesto City Schools in collaboration with Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Childcare Consultation Program

The Commission accepted the initial review of this program and recommended the termination of this program as a pilot, effective March 31, 2003. The Commission acknowledged and thanked the Modesto City Schools for their support and leadership in this pilot program. The Interim Executive Director was instructed to share this program with Behavioral Health & Recovery Services.

Moved Szczepaniak, Seconded Skol. Unanimously Approved. (Abstained Souza)

- iii. Center for Human Services – On the Safe Side Program

The Commission approved the extension of this pilot program through June 30, 2003, with an additional \$14,857 in funds. The Commission recommended for the program to explore all possibilities to leverage State, Federal and/or Foundation funds to expand the Program. The United Way of Stanislaus County was instructed to meet with this pilot program to share the recommendations of the Pilot Program Review Team and also to re-convene the Pilot Program Review Team before June 2003 and make recommendations to the Commission. The Commission further requested for the program to outline the age appropriate statistics and goals with age relation.

Moved Szczepaniak, Seconded Paul. Unanimously Approved.

- iv. Keyes Union School District – Community Advocate Program

The Commission approved the extension of this program through June 30, 2003 with no additional funds. The United Way of Stanislaus County was instructed to meet with this pilot program to convey the recommendations of the Pilot Program Review Team and it also instructed them to convene the Pilot Program Review Team by June 2003, to review the Family –Community Advocate Program and make recommendations to the Commission.

Moved Skol, Seconded Szczepaniak. Unanimously Approved.

- v. California State University Stanislaus – Parent Child Home Program

The Commission approved the extension of this program through June 30, 2003 with no additional funds. The United Way of Stanislaus County was instructed to meet with this pilot program to convey the recommendations of the Pilot Program Review Team and it also instructed them to convene the Pilot Program Review Team by June 2003, to review this pilot and make recommendations to the Commission.

Moved Skol, Seconded Szczepaniak. Unanimously Approved.

- c. The Commission authorized adjustments to the three Pilot Programs administered by the Golden Valley Health Center – Puentes Program for Hanshaw & Robertson Road Clinics, Puentes Program for Patterson & Westley Clinics and the Reach Out and Read Program – in the amount of \$36,000 through the extended pilot period of June 30, 2003. The United Way was instructed to convene the Pilot Review Team by April 2003 and review the three pilot programs and make recommendations to the Commission.

Moved Skol, Seconded Petersen. Unanimously Approved.

V. Correspondence

- A. The Commission accepted a “thank you” letter from Elaine’s Home Preschool/Child Care.

Moved on Consent.

- B. The Commission accepted a “thank you” letter from the City of Turlock.

Moved on Consent.

VI. Public Comment Period

Christine Churchill, Youth and Education Manager, American Cancer Society, presented to the Commission a flyer with information of a counseling training program, *Make Yours A Fresh Start Family*. The program mainly targets healthcare professionals that care for pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of young children. The program will be offering free training on Tuesday, April 1, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency located at 820 Scenic Drive, Modesto, in the Martin Conference Room. The California Children & Families Commission sponsors this program.

VII. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Perez, requested that Esther Rosario, Prevention Program of Stanislaus County Office of Education, provide the Commission with a briefing on Healthy Starts in Stanislaus County.

Chair Walker informed the public that a presentation from Leaps & Bounds, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, will be provided at our next Commission meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned by Chair Walker at 6:58 p.m.